

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
ARIZONA STRIP FIELD OFFICE
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW**

CX-AZ-130-2005-0060

PROJECT TITLE: Tank Fire Complex Emergency Stabilization

PROJECT LEAD: Kathleen Harcksen

PROPOSED ACTION: The proposed action is to implement emergency post-fire stabilization measures by aerially seeding parts of the Cow and Tank components of the Tank Fire Complex (approximately 13,235 acres of the 69,933 acres burned) in the Great Basin/Mojave transition vegetation communities; and to defer the seeded areas from livestock grazing for two growing seasons to provide for seedling establishment and achievement of vegetation cover objectives. Rock cliffs, rock talus slopes, and unburned islands of vegetation within the fire perimeter will not be seeded. Neither Wilderness, Critical Desert Tortoise Habitat, State, nor private lands will be treated.

The following is the proposed seed mix and rate to be applied:

<u>Native Species</u>	<u>lbs/ac</u>
Galleta Grass, Viva (<i>Hilaria jamesii</i>)	0.25
Sideoats Grama, Niner or Vaughn (<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>)	1.0
Sand Dropseed (<i>Sporobolus cryptandrus</i>)	0.25
Blue Grama, Alma or Hachita (<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>)	1.0
Indian Ricegrass, Paloma (<i>Oryzopsis hymenoides</i>)	0.25
Thick Spike Wheatgrass, Critana (<i>Elymus lanceolatus</i>)	2.0
Western Wheatgrass (<i>Pascopyrum smitii</i>)	0.5

<u>Non-Native Species</u>	<u>lbs/ac</u>
Small Burnet, Delar (<i>Sanguisorba minor</i>)	2.0
Blue Flax, Appar (<i>Linum perenne</i>)	0.5
Russian Wildrye, Bozoiisky (<i>Psathyrostachys juncea</i>)	1.0
Siberian Wheatgrass, Vavilov (<i>Agropyron sibericum</i>)	1.0
Pubescent Wheatgrass, Luna (<i>Elytrigia intermedium</i>)	0.25
Forage Kochia (<i>Kochia prostrata</i>)	0.1
Yellow Sweetclover (<i>Melilotus officinalis</i>)	0.25

Repair 0.25 miles fence in the Tank component, 17.5 miles in the Cow component, and build 3.5 miles of new perimeter fence in the Cow component to protect the areas seeded until plant species composition and cover objectives have been met.

Conduct Noxious Weed inventories.

Monitor vegetation objectives at Key Areas which have been treated, within the project area, using standard, current and locally accepted monitoring protocol.

Affected grazing Allotments include portions of the following, by fire component:

Tank = Wildcat, Tassi, Pakoon

Cow = Cottonwood, Mud and Cane, Pakoon, Pakoon Springs

LOCATION OF PROPOSED ACTION: The proposed project area is located within the Grand Canyon – Parashant National Monument. The proposed project area for the Cow Component is generally north of Wayne’s Well, east of Cottonwood Ridge, south of Jacobs Well, and west of the boundary of the 2005 Tweedy Fire Component of the Tweedy Fire Complex. The proposed project area for the Tank Component is generally west of the Grand Wash Cliffs, north of the Savanic Mine and Pigeon Canyon, south of Squaw Canyon and east of Gyp Hill. (See Appendix 1. for legal description and map of project area.)

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW:

The proposed action has been reviewed for conformance with the Arizona Strip District Resource Management Plan (1992), as amended in 1997 (Arizona Statewide Land Use Plan Amendment for Standards of Rangeland Health), 1998 (Mojave Desert Amendment) and 2003 (Arizona Statewide Land Use Plan Amendment for Fire, Fuels and Air Quality). The proposed action is in conformance with the RMP.

“WS01 Manage vegetation cover towards ecological stability and sound long-term protective soil cover using mechanical, chemical, biological or fire as tools for accomplishment.”

The proposed action has also been reviewed for conformance with the Grand Canyon – Parashant National Monument Proclamation (2000). The proposed action is in conformance with the Proclamation.

“Protection of cultural, social, biological, and physical resources for which the Monument was created will remain the highest priority in planning and management.”

“Conservation and restoration of a habitat mosaic that supports sustainable levels of a full range of native species, including predators, will be emphasized.”

The proposed action has been reviewed for conformance with the Grand Canyon – Parashant National Monument Interim Management Policy (2000). The proposed action is in conformance with the Interim Management Policy.

“Livestock Grazing: Where applicable, livestock grazing within the Monument is permitted, pursuant to the terms of existing permits and leases. Continue to ensure the implementation of Standards and Guidelines for Rangeland Improvement in the Monument.”

“Noxious Weeds/Exotic Species: Existing noxious weed control activities should continue. Exotic Species should not be introduced, unless doing so is essential to control noxious weeds or other undesirable species.”

The non-native species proposed have been shown to provide competition to the brome species by successfully germinating and becoming established, therefore

occupying growing space that would be occupied by the exotic bromes. The proposed non-natives will provide effective ground cover and hold the ecological niche for the seeded natives to become established, by keeping the exotic bromes at bay, and interrupting the brome fire cycle.

"Off-road Vehicles: For the purpose of protecting the objects identified in the Proclamation, no areas in the Monument should be authorized for cross-country, off-road vehicular use, except for authorized administrative and emergency purposes."

"Vegetation Manipulation: Chaining and other methods that cause substantial surface disturbance shall not be permitted."

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW: The proposed action is categorically excluded under 516 DM 6, Appendix 5.4 C. Forestry #3.

Seeding or reforestation of timber sales or burn areas where no chaining is done, no pesticides are used and there is no conversion of timber type or conversion of non-forest to forest land. Specific reforestation activities covered include: seeding and seedling plantings, shading, tubing (browse protection), application of non-toxic big game repellent, spot scalping, rodent trapping, fertilization of seed trees, fence construction around out-planting sites, and collection of pollen, scions, and cones.

The proposal has been reviewed to determine if any of the exceptions described in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, apply. Surname(s) verify completion of this review by appropriate specialists.

NAME	LIST OF EXCLUSION CRITERIA
------	----------------------------

- | | |
|-------|---|
| _____ | 1. The proposal would have no significant adverse effects on public health or safety: <u>Harcksen</u> |
| _____ | 2. The proposal would not adversely affect unique geographic characteristics such as park, recreation, or refuge lands, wilderness areas, wilderness study areas, wild and scenic rivers, sole or principal drinking water aquifers, prime farmlands, wetlands, floodplains, or ecologically significant or critical areas, including those listed on the Department's National Register of Natural Landmarks: <u>Folks/Smith</u> |
| _____ | 3. The proposal would have no adverse effects on historic or cultural resources: <u>Herron</u> |
| _____ | 4. The proposal would have no highly controversial environmental effects: <u>Harcksen</u> |
| _____ | 5. The proposal would have no highly uncertain or potentially significant environmental effects nor does it involve unique or unknown environmental risks: <u>Harcksen</u> |

- _____ 6. The proposal would not establish a precedent for future action or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration with potentially significant environmental effects: Harcksen
- _____ 7. The proposal is not directly related to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant effects: Harcksen
- _____ 8. The proposal would not adversely affect properties listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places: Herron
- _____ 9. The proposal would not adversely affect a plant species listed or proposed to be listed on the list of endangered and threatened species, nor have adverse effects on designated critical habitat for these species: Hughes
- _____ 10. The proposal would not adversely affect an animal species listed or proposed to be listed on the list of endangered and threatened species, nor have adverse effects on designated critical habitat for these species: Herder
- _____ 11. The proposal would not require compliance with Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management), 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), or the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act: Herder/Smith
- _____ 12. The proposal does not threaten to violate a federal, state, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment: Spotts/Benson
- _____ 13. The proposal is in conformance with the Arizona Strip District Resource Management Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement (January, 1992), the Grand Canyon – Parashant National Monument Proclamation (2000), and the Monument Interim Management Policy. Harcksen

DECISION: We have reviewed this plan conformance and NEPA compliance record and have determined that the proposal is in conformance with the approved land use plan, Monument proclamation and interim management policy, and that it would have no significant environmental effects, and that no further environmental analysis is required.

REVIEWED BY: _____ DATE: _____
Environmental Coordinator - Arizona Strip District

IT IS MY DECISION TO IMPLEMENT THE PROPOSAL, AS DESCRIBED.

APPROVED BY: _____ DATE: _____
Monument Manager, Grand Canyon – Parashant National Monument

APPENDIX 1.

TANK FIRE COMPLEX CX LEGAL DESCRIPTION Gila and Salt River Meridian

COW COMPONENT

T37N R15W	Sec. 1 S $\frac{1}{2}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 2 All Sec. 3 SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 10 E $\frac{1}{2}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 11 All Sec. 12 All Sec. 13 All Sec. 14 All Sec. 15 All Sec. 16 All Sec. 17 SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 20 NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 21 All Sec. 22 All Sec. 23 All Sec. 24 All Sec. 25 All Sec. 26 All Sec. 27 All Sec. 28 NE $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SWNW, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 33 E $\frac{1}{2}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 34 All Sec. 35 All Sec. 36 All
T37N R14W	Sec. 5 S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 6 S $\frac{1}{2}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 7 All Sec. 8 W $\frac{1}{2}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 17 All Sec. 18 All Sec. 19 All Sec. 20 All Sec. 21 All Sec. 28 All Sec. 29 All Sec. 30 All Sec. 31 All Sec. 32 All Sec. 33 W $\frac{1}{2}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$
T36N R15W	Sec. 1 All Sec. 2 All Sec. 3 All

Sec. 4 All
 Sec. 9 E $\frac{1}{2}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$
 Sec. 10 All
 Sec. 11 All
 Sec. 12 All
 Sec. 13 N $\frac{1}{2}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$
 Sec. 14 N $\frac{1}{2}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$
 Sec. 15 All
 Sec. 16 E $\frac{1}{2}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$
 Sec. 21 NENE
 Sec. 22 N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$

T36N R14W Sec. 4 W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$
 Sec. 5 All
 Sec. 6 All
 Sec. 7 N $\frac{1}{2}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$
 Sec. 8 N $\frac{1}{2}$, NWSW
 Sec. 9 N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$
 Sec. 10 NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$
 Sec. 4 SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$
 Sec. 3 W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$
 Sec. 18 NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$

TANK COMPONENT

T35N R15W Sec. 25 S $\frac{1}{2}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$
 Sec. 26 E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$
 Sec. 27 SESE
 Sec. 34 NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$
 Sec. 35 N $\frac{1}{2}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$
 Sec. 36 All

T35N R14W Sec. 30 S $\frac{1}{2}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$
 Sec. 31 All
 Sec. 32 All
 Sec. 33 S $\frac{1}{2}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$
 Sec. 34 SW $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$
 Sec. 35 S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$

T34N R15W Sec. 1 NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$
 Sec. 11 E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$
 Sec. 12 S $\frac{1}{2}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$
 Sec. 13 All
 Sec. 14 E $\frac{1}{2}$, SENW, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$
 Sec. 23 N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SENE, NESE
 Sec. 24 All
 Sec. 25 E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$

T34N R14W Sec. 6 All

Sec. 5 All
 Sec. 4 All
 Sec. 3 All
 Sec. 2 NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SENE, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$
 Sec. 11 N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$
 Sec. 10 W $\frac{1}{2}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$
 Sec. 9 All
 Sec. 8 All
 Sec. 7 All
 Sec. 18 All
 Sec. 17 All
 Sec. 16 All
 Sec. 15 W $\frac{1}{2}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$
 Sec. 22 S $\frac{1}{2}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$
 Sec. 21 All
 Sec. 20 N $\frac{1}{2}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$
 Sec. 19 SE $\frac{1}{4}$
 Sec. 30 E $\frac{1}{2}$
 Sec. 29 All
 Sec. 28 All
 Sec. 27 All
 Sec. 26 NW $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SESW, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$
 Sec. 35 N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$
 Sec. 34 N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$
 Sec. 33 N $\frac{1}{2}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$
 Sec. 32 N $\frac{1}{2}$

T33N R14W Sec. 3 W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$
 Sec. 4 N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SENE, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$